



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,710	09/25/2003	Shin-ichi Kanno	04284.0875	6399
22852	7590	10/26/2007	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			TO, BAOTRAN N	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2135		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		10/26/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/669,710	KANNO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Baotran N. To	2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/16/2007(RCE).
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-24 (Canceled) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/16/2007 has been entered.

This Office action is responsive to the Applicant's Amendment filed 08/16/2007.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended.

Claims 17-24 are previously canceled.

Claims 1-16 remain for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 08/16/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, "Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's claims 1, 4, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of Judge, because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established" (Page 2 of Remarks).

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by

combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Shin's reference and Judge's reference are analogous arts. They both specifically disclose how to control network traffic to a network computer which provides network computer services that can support the motivation to combine the Shin's teaching with Judge's teaching to establish the limitations of Claims 1 and 9 that provide enhanced security of electronic communications (see Judge col. 5, lines 10-12). Furthermore, It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Judge's reference within Shin to include a predetermined time period for the request measurement unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provide enhanced security of electronic communications (see Judge col. 5, lines 10-12).

Applicant further argues, "Therefore, Shin's teaching of using on-board software to control server traffic does not constitute "a data request acceptance unit configured to accept data requests sent from client computers coupled to a server computer via the protection apparatus, as proxy for the server computer which is different and separate from the protection apparatus," as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added). In fact, Shin is completely silent on any separate proxy for the internet server" (Page 2 of Remarks).

Examiner respectfully disagrees with this argument. Shin explicitly discloses, "a data request acceptance unit (see Fig. 1, Traffic Shaper) configured to accept data requests (see Fig. 1, Incoming Service Requests) sent from client computers, as proxy for the server computer (see pg. 3, ¶ [0040], "network traffic includes requests for service from network clients over the network"; pg. 4, ¶ [0061 - 0062], "client population"). Shin reference doesn't teach client computers coupled to the server computer via the protection apparatus, which is different and separate from the protection apparatus. However, Judge reference teaches client computers coupled to the server computer via the protection apparatus, which is different and separate from the protection apparatus (Figures 1 and 2, element 210, col. 8, lines 30-46). Therefore, the combination of Shin and Judge discloses the limitations of Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, it is believed that the rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin et al. U.S.P.G. Pub. No. 2002/0138643 in view of Judge et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,124,438.

With the respect to claims 1 and 9, Shin reference discloses: a data request acceptance unit (see Fig. 1, Traffic Shaper) configured to accept data requests (see Fig. 1, Incoming Service Requests) sent from client computers, as proxy for the server computer (see pg. 3, ¶ [0040], "network traffic includes requests for service from network clients over the network"; pg. 4, ¶ [0061 - 0062], "client population");

at least one request measurement unit (see Fig. 1, Traffic Shaper) configured to measure a number of data requests (see pg. 5, ¶ [0089], "arrival rate of packets") which have arrived from said client computers (see Fig. 1, Incoming Service Requests; pg. 4, ¶ [0061]);

a response measurement unit (see Fig. 1, monitor) configured to measure a number of responses (see pg. 4, ¶ [0067], "accesses server capacity based on its observations"), which have been made from said server computer to said client computers (see pg. 4, ¶ [0096]);

at least one server load calculation unit (see Fig. 1, Monitor & Load Controller) configured to obtain a load state (see pg. 6, ¶ [0097 - 0101], load index) of said server computer by using measurements of said first measurement unit and said second measurement unit (see pg. 5, ¶ [0078], "acceptance rates"); and

a data request transfer unit (see Fig. 1, Traffic Shaper) configured to change a rate of the number of data requests (see Fig. 1, Traffic Shaping Policy; ¶ [0062], "if one wants to change the request rate ...") based on the load state determined by said server load calculation unit (see Fig. 1, Load Controller; pg. 3, ¶ [0043 - 0047]).

Shin reference doesn't teach client computers coupled to the server computer via the protection apparatus, which is different and separate from the protection apparatus; the measurement unit collecting measurements within a predetermined time period. However, Judge reference teaches client computers coupled to the server computer via the protection apparatus, which is different and separate from the protection apparatus (Figures 1 and 2, element 210, col. 8, lines 30-46); a measurement unit configured to collect measurements within a predetermined time period (see col. 16, lines 15-16 and lines 52-62). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Judge's reference within Shin to include a predetermined time period for the request measurement unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provide enhanced security of electronic communications (see Judge col. 5, lines 10-12).

With the respect to claims 4 and 12, Shin references discloses:
a load state storage unit configured to store said load state of said server computer (see pg. 3, ¶ [0039], "Storage is provided for storing a set of rule data");
wherein said server load calculation unit changes the value stored in said load state storage unit (see pg. 5, ¶ [0081]), in accordance with a new load state of said server computer (see pg. 2, ¶ [0031]); and
wherein, as said changed value stored in said load state storage unit exhibits a higher load (see pg. 4, ¶ [0070], Overload condition; pg. 5, ¶ [0081], system load increases beyond bounds), the rate of said number of the data requests which are to be

transferred to said server computer is decreased by said data request transfer unit (see pg. 3, ¶ [0044] - [0045]); and

wherein, as said changed value stored in said load state storage unit exhibits a lower load (see Fig. 5 & 6, Underload Signal; pg. 4, ¶ [0070]), the rate of said number of the data requests which are to be transferred to said server computer is increased by said data request transfer unit (see pg. 3, ¶ [0044] & [0046])

4. Claims 2-6, 8, 10-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin et al. U.S.P.G. Pub. No. 2002/0138643 in view of Judge et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,124,438 in view of Kubo U.S. Patent No. 6,986,139.

With the respect to claims 2 and 10, Shin reference doesn't explicitly teach: said server load calculation unit determines the load state from at least the number of data requests which are to be transferred to said server computer within said predetermined time period, relative to the number of data requests which have been accepted by said data request acceptance unit within said predetermined time period.

Kubo reference discloses it determines the load state (see col. 4, lines 15-18) from at least the number of data requests which are to be transferred to said server computer (see col. 4, lines 62-65, "the number of in process transactions") within said predetermined time period (see col. 4, lines 62-65, certain time cycle), relative to the number of data requests which have been accepted by said data request acceptance unit (see col. 4, lines 62-67, "number of job processing processes staying in the CPU

system") within said predetermined time period (see col. 4, lines 62-65, certain time cycle). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have Shin invention include the details that the load state is obtain in the manner of Kubo to provide a low-overhead dynamic load balancing method (see Kubo col. 4, lines 7-9).

With the respect to claims 3 and 11, Shin reference teaches wherein in a case where said data request transfer unit has judged that a load of said server computer increases from said load state of said server computer as obtained by said server load calculation unit (see pg. 2, ¶ [0031], "measuring capacity of the network computer to service the network traffic"), the rate of said number of the data requests which are to be transferred to said server computer is decreased (see pg. 3, ¶ [0037], throttling); and in a case where said data request transfer unit has judged that the load of said server computer decreases (see pg. 2, ¶ [0031], "measuring capacity of the network computer to service the network traffic"), the rate of said number of the data requests which are to be transferred to said server computer is increased (see pg. 3, ¶ [0038], throttling).

With the respect to claims 5 and 13, Shin and Judge reference discloses: a response amount measurement unit (see Shin Fig. 1, monitor) configured to measure the size of the responses (see Shin pg. 4, ¶ [0067], "accesses server capacity based on its observations") made from said server computer to said client computer (see pg. 4, ¶

[0096]) within said predetermined time period (see Judge col. 16, lines 15-16 and lines 52-62);

wherein said server load calculation unit determines the load state from the size of the responses made from said server computer (see pg. 4, ¶ [0066]-[0067], "accesses server capacity"; pg. 6, ¶ [0097], "load index") and as the measured size of the responses increases, the load is calculated to be higher by said server load calculation unit (see pg. 4, ¶ [0070], "receives an overload or underload notification in terms of the server load-index").

With the respect to claims 6 and 14, Shin reference discloses: a re-response detection unit (see Fig. 1, Monitor) configured to detect that the response from said server computer to said client computer has been resent (see pg. 4, ¶ [0067], load indicators);

wherein said server load calculation unit determines the load state from re-response detection (see Fig. 5, Monitoring load Index; ¶ [0097]) and, when said re-response detection unit has detected a resending, the load of said server computer which has resent said response to the data request of said client computer is calculated to have become higher by said server load calculation unit (see pg. 5, ¶ [0096], "the monitor updates moving averages for all monitored system variables").

With the respect to claims 8 and 16, Shin & Judge combination teaches: a connection detection unit configured to detect a new connection from said client

computer (see Shin pg. 4, ¶ [0062], "Traffic classes may represent specific ... client populations");

wherein said server load calculation unit determines the load state from the detected new connection (see Shin pg. 7, ¶ [0108], "invention maintains responsiveness to sudden load-shifts") and, when said connection detection unit has not detected a new connection (see Shin Fig. 8; pg. 5, ¶ [0085]) within said predetermined time period (see Judge col. 16, lines 15-16 and lines 52-62), the load of said server computer as corresponds to said client computer is calculated by said server load calculation unit to have become lower (see Shin pg. 6, ¶ [0097]; pg. 7, ¶ [0108], "invention maintains responsiveness to sudden load-shifts and achieves accurate load-control under sustained load").

5. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin et al. U.S.P.G. Pub. No. 2002/0138643 in view of Judge et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,124,438 and Kubo U.S. Patent No. 6,986,139 as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Silverman U.S. Patent No. 7,107,619.

With the respect to claims 7 and 15, Shin reference doesn't explicitly teach: • a communication state detection unit configured to detect if said client computer has been forcibly cut off and to detect if any abnormality in a communication state exists;

wherein the said server load calculation unit determines the load state from detected state and, when said communication state detection unit has detected a forced

cut off or an abnormal communication, the load of said server computer as corresponds to said client computer is calculated to have become higher by said server load calculation unit.

Silverman reference teaches: a communication state detection unit configured to detect if said client computer has been forcibly cut off and to detect if any abnormality in a communication state exists (see col. 12, lines 22-29, "number of incorrect responses"); It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have Shin invention configured to detect abnormality in a communication state for measuring and monitoring of network performance and throughput, including detection of abnormal conditions indicating presence of computer hacker denial of service attacks and reaction to such attacks (see Silverman col. 1, lines 24-32).

This combination would result wherein the said server load calculation unit determines the load state from detected state (see Shin pg. 4, ¶ [0066] - [0067], "The monitoring module itself assesses server capacity based on its observations of different load indicators.") and, when said communication state detection unit has detected a forced cut off or an abnormal communication (see Silverman col. 12, lines 22-29. "number of incorrect responses"), the load of said server computer as corresponds to said client computer is calculated to have become higher by said server load calculation unit (see Shin pg. 2, ¶ [0031], "measuring capacity of the network computer ... throttling the network traffic to the network computer").

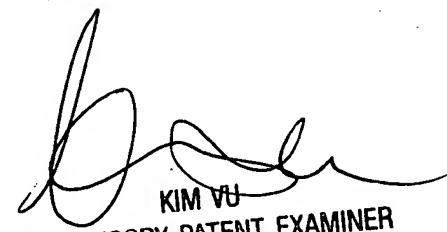
Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baotran N. To whose telephone number is 571-272-8156. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BT
10/18/2007



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100